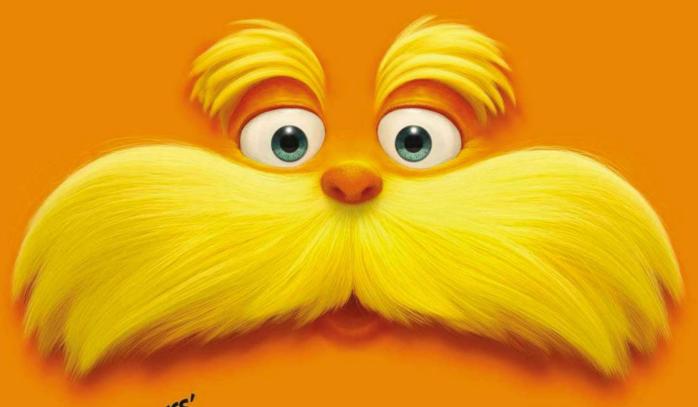


FROM THE MAKERS OF DESPICABLE ME



pr.Seuss' The Toldante of the control of the contro



TAKE HOME THE FUN TODAY ON BLU-RAY





FIONA I WAS A REALLY

Professional athlete, actor or musician or vet - these were some of the most popular things NG KIDS readers want to be when they grow up. Some of the other jobs that came up in our readers' survey earlier this year: racing driver, wildlife photographer, astronaut, fashion designer, builder and games programmer.

It's very exciting to think of the huge range of possibilities that are open to you. Take inspiration from our interviews with four National Geographic Explorers on page 18 (now that is a dream job!). They told us about some of the really cool things they get up to. Read the tips on what to study, read and watch and you could be an NG Explorer one day.

Our Art Zone artists drew their dream jobs and just for fun we predicted what different species of penguins would become if they were human.

Here is what some of the NG KIDS staff wanted to do when they were ten.

We also say goodbye to Emil, our designer, after this issue. He has been with us for nearly four years. We wish you well, Emil!

Dare to Explore!

African penguins are in trouble! To create awareness, we hid ten of them in the magazine. Here's one, but can

you spot all ten?

LETITER OF THE MONTH

DEAR FIONA

IN OUR AREA WE HAVE LOTS OF WONDERFUL WILDLIFE. WE STAY IN JONGENSFONTEIN AND IF I LOOK THROUGH MY WINDOW, I SOMETIMES SEE WILD ANIMALS! ONE DAY I WAS PLAYING WITH MY POG, JESSIE, AND I HEARD TWIGS CRACKING. WHEN I TURNED AROUND, I SAW THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BABY DEER. HE HAD BIG BROWN EYES AND CUTE GREY EARS. I STILL SEE MY NEW FRIEND IN THE EMPTY YARD NEXT TO OUR HOUSE. NOW THIS IS WHAT I CALL A WONDERFUL PLANET!

THANKS FOR THE LOVELY MAGAZINE, I HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH.

DORETTE BESTER, 12, JONGENSFONTEIN

Send us your letters, birthday dates, pictures and comments. We want to hear from you, so start writing!

- Write to us at: The Editor, NG KIDS, PO Box 2271,
- Send us an e-mail to fiona@ngkids.co.za or SMS* us a letter to "NGK Letters" 33970.

* See page 49 for terms and conditions

CURIOUS KID! 1 WANTED TO BE AN INVENTOR WHEN I

GREW UP. I ALSO

LOVED ART AND

READING.

IMAGINATION T SCHOOL AND WANTED TO BE A WRITER.

LISEL ANCIENT ARTIFACTS
AND SOLVING MYSTERIES FASCINATED ME WHEN I WAS YOUNG AND I WANTED TO BE AN ARCHAEOLOGIST

> JANI GREW UP ON A FARM AND LOVED HORSE-RIDING. MY DREAM JOB WAS TO BE A
> JOCKEY. IT'S FANTASTIC
> GALLOPING FAST ON
> HORSEBACK BUT TO BE A SUCCESSFUL JOCKEY YOU NEED TO BE QUITE SHORT ... I BECAME TOO TALL!

I WANTED TO BE AN ARTIST. I WAS ALWAYS DOODLING IN CLASS AND THEN GETTING PAINT ALL OVER THE FURNITURE AT HOME

The August subscribers of the month are Matthew Loans (11) from Capri, Caleb Heyne (8) from Parklands and Robin Edson (13) from Bellville. They have each won a year's membership of the Cape Town Science Centre valued at R230.

The Cape Town Science Centre, previously the MTN Sciencentre, is now situated on Main Road in Observatory. With a wide variety of interactive displays and exciting activities it's a world of discovery under one roof! Keep an eye on the website for holiday programmes and other events.

Visit www.ctsc.org.za for more information.





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Meet the Penguins

Discover some amazing facts about all 17 species of penguins.

page 12



Dare to Explore

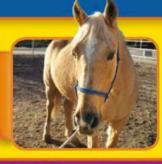
Four National Geographic adventurers share their most thrilling moments.

page 18

Horse Rescue

A starving horse finds a new, safe home.

page 20





Animal Killers Busted

Wildlife detectives use cool science to solve crimes against critters.

page 22

Brave

10

NG KIDS goes behind the scenes of the new movie.

page 36



DEPARTMENTS

24 Weird But True

Inside Scoop

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Amazing Animals

26 Poster

47 Fun Factory

Bet You Didn't Know 38 Subscriptions 50 Just Joking

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On the Cover

COVER PHOTOGRAPH. © ANDY ROUSE / NATURE PICTURE LIBRARY

COVER INSETS. © SXC.HU [RHINO]; JULIKA KENNAWAY [DOG]; PIXAR STUDIOS (BRAVE);
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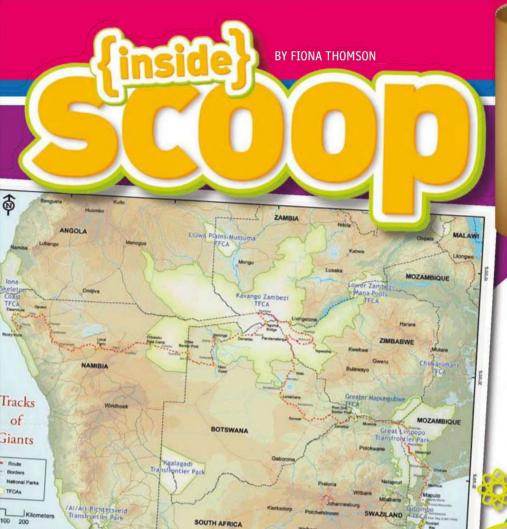




MAKE ROOM FOR NATURE

Teach your kids about the natural world with NG KIDS Magazine





On this Day in History

A robotic spacecraft called Lunar Orbiter 1 was sent into orbit on 10 August 1966. It took the first ever photographs of Earth from space.



AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF THE LUNAR ORBITER

Science Week

Three South African kids were picked to represent South Africa at the International Sustainable World Energy Engineering Environment Project Olympiad (I-SWEEP) in Texas, America, in May. Kelly Ann Long (grade 10, Diocesan School for Girls, Grahamstown), Kobus Strydom (grade 12, McLachlan High School, Joubertina) and Shraddha Rajcoomar (grade 12, Verulam Secondary School, KwaZulu-Natal) each won a bronze medal and a cash prize for their projects to improve our environment. Their journey started when they entered the Eskom Expo for Young Scientists with their projects and each won a gold medal. Regional expos for primary and high school

nary and high school kids will take place around South Africa in August. Find out more at www.exposcience. co.za.

It's National Science Week fom Monday 30 July to Saturday 4 August. See

www.saasta.ac.za for a list of events.

Kids For Climate Care

SHRADDHA RAJCOOMER WITH HER PROJECT ON CLIMATE CHANGE.

The Elephant Walk

AN ELEPHANT WAS SPOTTED ON THE FIRST DAY IN THE HORUSEB RIVER VALLEY IN NAMIBIA. The conservationists
Ian McCallum and
Ian Michler are
on a mission to
cross southern
Africa without any
mechanical transport.
They are walking,
cycling and paddling in
traditional kayaks.
The expedition
is called Tracks of

YOU CAN TRACK THE TEAM'S PROGRESS ON A LIVE INTERACTIVE VERSION OF THIS MAP.

is called Tracks of Giants. The name was inspired by the

migratory routes elephants could take before human settlements and fences blocked their paths. Cycling through the harsh Namib Desert, the team came across lots of wildlife. Ian Michler says highlights of the first leg included "a close-up sighting of an elephant, plenty of oryx and springbok and the occasional jackal and ostrich."

The journey highlights conservation issues, like clashes between humans and animals. It also shows that there must be corridors for both wildlife and the nomadic Himba people.

"Our most demanding challenge is recording these disputes, challenges and successes as accurately as possible," he says. The journey of 5 000 kilometres will take more than four months and will end on 5 September 2012.

National Geographic is recording parts of the trip and you can track the expedition by going to the website www.tracksofgiants.org.

(5)

Facts about the Games

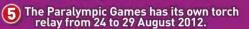
The Olympics may be over but the Games go on. The Paralympic Games, for athletes with a physical disability, run from 29 August to 9 September 2012.

The first Paralympic Games were held in Italy in 1960 with 400 athletes.

South Africa won 30 medals, including 21 gold, at the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing.

In 2008 Natalie du Toit competed in both the Olympic and Paralympic swimming events.

Two million tickets will be sold for the 💪 Paralympic event in London.





WIN TICKETS TO BRAVE 3D

The makers of Toy/Story and Finding Nemo bring you an exciting new movie set in the

Highlands of Scotland. In the movie Brave, Merida doesn't listen to her



parents and causes

a lot of trouble! She needs to learn the meaning of true bravery.

Go behind the scenes for more facts about Brave on page 36. You can also win tickets to see the movie on page 35.

Brave opens in cinemas on August 2012



TRAVEL IN STYLE WITH SAMSONITE

Samsonites Sammies collection is ideal for the trendiest of little travellers. The Sammies family started out with the Ladybird Grocodile and Busy Bee and now

includes the Butterfly, Elephant and the cute Chick Choose from backpacks, a gym bag, school bag, pencil box,

an upright suitcase and more. The Sammles by Samsonite range is available at luggage stores nationwide.

Visit www.samsonite.com or contact 031-266-0620.

Samsonite

LEARN WITH DINO POO

It's not real poop... but it sure does smell like it! Discover what the dinosaur ate and

create your own fossil imprint with what you find. Find out which dinosaur was a hunter and which was a planteater. Be careful ... it really smells terrible!

This new product by

ThinkToys stimulates creativity
and helps with early child development.

It's animal friendly and for ages five and older. Visit

www.thinktoys.co.za or phone 011-615-6594 for more information.





TO THE MOON FOR

STRAY DOG RUNS TO TIBET

Lhasa, Asia

How do you get a dog to run more than 1 500 kilometres? Give it a bone. When a team of Chinese cyclists spotted a small stray five days into an expedition from Chengdu, China, they gave her a drumstick. They didn't expect what would happen next. The smart pup decided to follow the team for 20 days and over 12 mountains, all the way to Lhasa in Tibet! The dogged little pup, nicknamed Xiao Sa, or Little Sa, kept up with them through heavy storms and thin air. She stayed on foot even in parts where the cyclists took a bus to have a rest. The pooch covered around 60 kilometres a day and slept on the cyclists' raincoats at night after sharing their rations of custard tarts, boiled eggs and sausages for supper. "At first she just followed us for food but she really bonded with us later on," says Xiao Yong.

happy ending. She was adopted by Xiao and returned home to China. Here's hoping she gets to eat all the chicken drumsticks her doggy heart desires. - Jani Coetzee



Washington, America

Elephant keeper Debbie Flinkman noticed that 36-year-old Shanthi, an Asian elephant, likes music. She was always tapping against things and flapping her ears to make noises. The zookeepers decided to attach a harmonica to her stall. The musical mammal started playing it immediately, using her trunk to blow air through the instrument.

She plays for several minutes at a time, exhaling, inhaling and moving around on the harmonica to make different notes - just like a human player would do. Her favourite songs pick up volume towards the end and finish on a loud note. "She often lowers her head to the harmonica so she can hear her song better," says Debbie. We look forward to the gentle giant's first album! - Jani Coetzee







he new National Geographic television miniseries *Untamed Americas* features the coolest creatures on the American continents, from the northern point in Canada to the southern tip of Chile. Find out what makes some of these animals so wild!

Mustangs can eat
6, 8 kilograms of food
a day - equal to about
70 burgers.

1

The tube-lipped nectar bat's tongue is longer than its body.

Certain alligators bellow loud enough to Shake nearby objects.

4 Bighorn rams can crash into each other at 32 kilometres

A group of Pacific parakeets in Nicaragua nests in an active volcano.



Some flamingos live in the chilly Andes Mountains.

WILDAMERICA



CLASS 0F2012

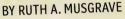
African Penguin Most likely to break a record

The African penguin can swim up to 20 kilometres per hour when hunting, hold its breath for 2,5 minutes and dive as deep as 130 metres. It's the only penguin that breeds on the coast of Africa. Its enemies are land predators such as leopards, rats, snakes and mongooses.



Check out the 17 penguin species that make up the class of 2012. They're more than just black and white—each has its own personality and unique style. Find out how we think they'll make their mark in the world.



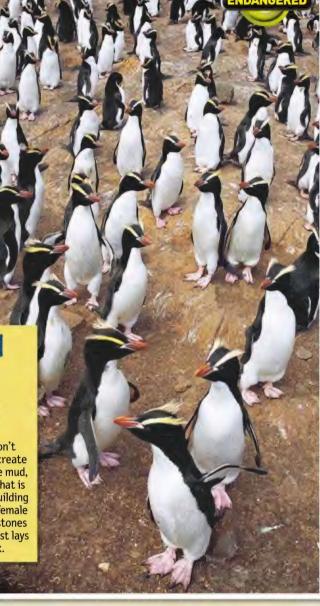




Erect-crested Penguin

Most likely to become an interior decorator

These New Zealand penguins don't need much to make a nest. They create shallow holes in the ground or use mud, stones, grass or any vegetation that is available to line the nest. Sadly, building materials are so scarce that the female sometimes uses only a couple of stones as her nest. But more often she just lays her egg on a large, bare rock.



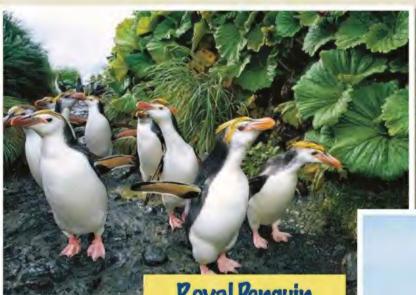


Chinstrap Penguin

Most likely to become a rock star

Noisy, messy, rock-stealing, flipperslapping chinstraps have a gigantic penguin personality stuffed into a small body. "They're so loud, it's impossible to have a conversation near a rookery," says penguin expert Penny Chilton. Their name comes from the narrow black band under their heads, which makes it appear as if they are wearing black helmets.





Addie Penguin Most likely to get arrested

Male Adélie penguins must build a big stone nest to impress the females. Some have found a sneaky way to build their nests without having to do all of the hard work. They steal from their neighbours! Adélie penguins must win a deadly game of freeze tag while crossing thin ice in Antarctica. Leopard seals lurk below, watching for movement. If an Adélie sees the predator, it "freezes" until the danger passes.

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**ALAM / ITELOM-EYED)

Royal Penguin Most likely to become a deep-sea diver

Royal penguins spend about four months each year eating and sleeping at sea – somewhere between Australia and Antarctica. They capture their prey on dives as deep as 46 metres.

Little Penguin Most likely to become

famous

They are shy birds, but one of the most popular tourist attractions in the world. More than half a million tourists a year watch the nightly parade of these bluegrey, rugby ball-sized penguins from New Zealand and Australia returning to their burrows after foraging at sea.



King Penguin Most likely to become the President

"Adult king penguins act as if they really are royalty," Sarah says. "They never run anywhere, as if they have all the time in the world." Chicks look so different that scientists once thought they were a separate species, which they called "woolly penguins".

Snares Penguin

Most likely to become a tree-hugger

They get their name from where they live - Snares Island. You have to look up to spot these penguins. They perch in trees, sometimes up to two metres off the ground. During breeding season Snares penguins roost on twisted tree limbs in forests on tiny islands south of New Zealand.



a landscape gardener Unlike penguins that nest together in crowded colonies, yellow-eyed penguins hide in coastal forests and shrub land far from any other penguin's nest."To study them, we have to crawl through thick, scratchy vegetation," expert David McFarlane says.

Macaroni Penguin

Most likely to become a fashionista

These penguins were named by early English explorers. In the mid 18th century a young man who wore flashy feathers in his hat was called a "Macaroni". The English explorers thought the yellow feathers of this penguin looked like the hat a Macaroni would wear. Every October about 18 million macaroni penguins nest on hillsides and cliffs off the Antarctic and subantarctic shorelines. Macaronis have the largest population of all penguins.



Most likely to run a food stall

When a gentoo parent returns from hunting in subantarctic seas, it races away from its chicks. But hungry chicks will follow. "It's funny watching the chicks with their floppy flippers chasing the adult," says penguin scientist Alexis Will. Once a chick is full, it won't bother chasing its parent anymore.







Galápagos Penguin Most likely to become the coolest penguin on

the planet

Instead of fighting frostbite, these penguins battle sunburn. That's because they live on the Galápagos Islands at the Equator. They shade their feet with their flippers to avoid sunburn.



Emperor Penguin

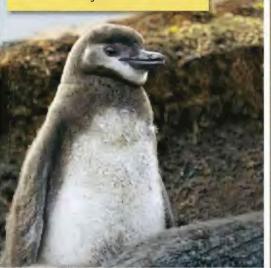
Most likely to run a daycare centre

The Emperor penguin is perhaps best known for the journeys adults make each year to mate and to feed their baby. They travel 50 to 120 kilometres over the ice to breeding colonies. The female lays a single egg, which is incubated by the male while the female returns to the sea to feed. Emperor penguins are the largest species—as tall as a seven-year-old child. They can dive 500 metres straight down and hold their breath up to 22 minutes. Their usual lifespan is 20 years in the wild, although scientists believe some of them may live to 50.

Magellanic Penguin

Most likely to marry their high school sweetheart

Magellanic penguins mate with the same partner year after year. The male reclaims his burrow from the previous year and waits for his female partner. The females can recognise their mates just by their call. Young Magellanic penguins, found along the southern coast of South America, practise hunting by chasing dragonflies. "They also flap their flippers to strengthen their swimming muscles," says penguin researcher Olivia Kane. "Sometimes they fall over."



Humboldt Penguin

Most likely to go bald

Humboldt penguins nest on the rocky desert coasts of Chile and Peru in South America. To keep cool, they pant, find shade or take a swim. Featherless skin on their faces and feet allows heat to escape from their bodies.



Fiordland Penguin Most likely to become a zoologist The rare, 60 centimetre-tall Fior penguin lives in rain forests whe nests in caves under boulders or

The rare, 60 centimetre-tall Fiordland penguin lives in rain forests where it nests in caves, under boulders or in the dense undergrowth on islands off New Zealand.

THE CONSERVATION **BIOLOGIST**

Krithi Karanth finds ways to protect wild animals. She talks about a heart-stopping encounter with an elephant.

"I've learned to expect the unexpected. Once while walking down a curving road in an Indian wildlife park, we came face to face with a group of elephants. Not wanting to disturb them, we began to back away.

Most of us knew to stay calm and quiet. But one person in the group who wasn't used to encountering wild animals made some noise. An elephant was startled and looked up. Normally these creatures are gentle giants, but some become defensive when scared. This one started stomping toward us! We got out of there quickly. My job does have some risks, but I love it. Helping to protect animals is important. I can't imagine doing anything else."

WANT TO BE

RITHI KARANTH IS ALL ABOUT ANIMALS.

> STUDY: Biology, geography and mathematics

WATCH: The Truth About Tigers on YouTube

READ: On Becoming a Biologist by John Janovy, Jr.

"Find a career you love.
The rest will fall into place.





"Be active, be productive and test your limits."

PAUL DIGS HIS JOB.

STUDY: Science, art WATCH: Jurassic Park **READ:** Dinosaur Death Trap from the March 2011 issue of Scientific American magazine

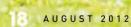
THE PALEONTOLOGIST

Paul Sereno uncovers dinosaur remains. He remembers discovering a nearly complete skeleton of Herrarasaurus, one of the earliest dinosaurs. "The Ischigualasto Valley in Argentina is about 120 kilometres long. We had spent several weeks on this harsh terrain looking for more complete remains of the earliest dinosaurs. Nobody thought we'd succeed. Just as the team was preparing to leave, I decided

to look in one place we'd missed. There I noticed vertebrae in

an eroded sandstone ledge. My eyes followed the neck bones one by one, right up to the base of a dinosaur skull. It was truly amazing. I felt as if I had found a 230-million-year-old needle in a monstrous haystack."

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Want to be an adventurer? Read the stories of four National Geographic explorers to see what it takes.

BY C.M. TOMLIN

Sea by Nancy

Knowlton

THE WILDLIFE **FILMMAKERS**

Dereck and Beverly Joubert are award-winning filmmakers from Botswana. Beverly describes meeting a young leopard while filming in Africa.

THE JOUBERTS MAKE
FILMS TO HELP PEOPLE
UNDERSTAND WILDLIFE. laptop in our car. Suddenly she left the tree,
laptop in our car. Suddenly she left the tree, The leopard had been watching us

came up to the vehicle and climbed onto the passenger seat. Then, amazingly, she raised a paw, put it on the keyboard of Dereck's computer and looked him in the face. This was a very touching moment, but we knew it was inappropriate behaviour for her. especially if she did it with tourists. So we gently encouraged her to leave the vehicle by turning on the heater, which produced a sound similar to the growl of disapproval a mother leopard might make."

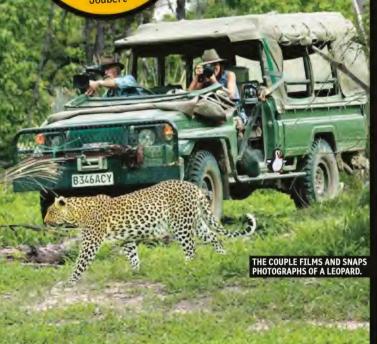
WANT TO BE

STUDY: Biology and psychology so you can understand animal behaviour better

WATCH: Living With Big Cats

READ: Eye of the Leopard by Dereck and Beverly Joubert

'The goal is to see the animals behaving naturally. You may have to watch for a long time.





and go after it. **READ:** Citizens of the And spend as

much time as possible in

THE OCEAN ECOLOGIST

Enric Sala studies bodies of water around the world looking for ways to conserve our oceans. He talks about swimming with sharks near Costa Rica. "We were scuba diving in the waters

off Cocos Island. When we reached the edge of an underwater cliff, we

stopped to look around. Everything was calm. Suddenly a school of about 200 hammerhead sharks rounded the corner! The creatures glided around us, making a whoosh sound. These fish aren't aggressive toward humans unless they feel threatened. So we kept still and just gazed at them. Moments like these make me realise how lucky I am - and how important our oceans are.

A **starving horse**, lost in the desert, finds a safe **new home**.

BY SCOTT ELDER

he exhausted horse can barely walk, but the drug smugglers force it further into the harsh desert. After overloading the animal with illegal drugs, they're sneaking across the border from Mexico into a remote part of Arizona, America. Nearly 180 kilograms of drugs were carelessly roped onto the horse without any padding. The ropes across his bare back rub through his hair and cut into his skin.

TO THE RESCUE

An off-road 4x4 appears, kicking up dust from a dirt road. It's the US Border Patrol. The smugglers leave the horse as they run to hide. The blond horse, called a palomino, may be free of the smugglers, but not their heavy cargo. Exhausted, sick and starving, the horse cannot survive for long.

Border patrol officers spot the palomino and approach him. They cut the ropes and free him from his burden. Only then do they see the extent of his injuries. They call Karen Pomroy of Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary. The group rehabilitates and cares for injured and unwanted horses, including those abandoned by smugglers.

FINDING KINDNESS

Up to a hundred horses are abandoned by drug smugglers along the border every year – many of the animals are found dead.

"The smugglers usually don't even feed these horses. They don't care about the animals at all," Karen says. She gathers some hay and drives to the holding pen where the palomino is being kept, accompanied by filmmaker and horse lover Victory Tischler-Blue. "The horse was so thin and his back so raw that I was surprised we couldn't see his backbone," Karen says. Even more concerning are the infected gashes on the horse's legs and his

obvious limp. Severely underweight, he hungrily devours the hay. When the women gently approach the horse, he trots away. "He had a look of fear in his eyes," Karen says. "But I just know we could help him." Victory picks a name for the palomino: Sundance.

Karen drives Sundance
to the sanctuary's ranch.
When he steps off the trailer,
the sanctuary's 48 other rescued
horses gallop over to whinny hellos.
Sundance replies and seems eager to make
new horse friends. But he remains skittish
around humans.

SPECIAL TREATMENT

The volunteers at Equine Voices hose Sundance down every day and give him antibiotics to help his wounds heal. He has a special diet that includes beet pulp and rice bran, both good for putting weight on horses. Soon the swelling in his legs goes down and he straightens out his walk.

BRIGHT FUTURE

After five months Sundance's back has healed almost completely and he's gained 130 kilograms. Victory visits the farm regularly and is astounded by Sundance's progress. "When people approach him now, he whinnies as if to say, 'Hey! Hi!' He's responding to gentleness and human kindness."

"He's big and he's sturdy. Once we've done a little bit of training, it won't be hard to find him a good home," Karen says. "He's really beautiful and he looks great now. He's a totally different horse."



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truly wild horse
is the endangered
Przewalski's horse.
This breed was never
domesticated.

There

are about

400 different



BUSTER

The cool science behind solving wildlife mysteries

BY KRISTIN BAIRD RATTINI AND JANI COETZEE

stray bullet. A single fingerprint. DNA. Like detectives, scientists examine the evidence left behind at crime scenes to help solve mysteries. But the scientists working at the National Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Forensics Laboratory in Oregon, America, and the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory in Pretoria are different: they use cutting-edge technology to help solve crimes against animals. They're a bit like CSI for wildlife. Their detective work helps the police to catch crooks who kill animals – and make others think twice about crimes against nature.



STICKY FINGERS

To passers-by it seemd the man was enjoying a camping trip. But he was illegally sneaking into reserved hunting grounds and using a gun instead of the permitted bow and arrow to kill elk for their prized antlers.

The hunter couldn't take the large antler racks home during hunting season; there were too many game wardens checking to make sure hunters killed their game legally. Instead, he wrapped the racks in duct tape and hid them in tree branches. He'd return for them after hunting season.

But the suspect left something else behind. After wardens found one of the racks, FWS lab technicians discovered a fingerprint on the duct tape. No two people have the same fingerprints. The scientists searched a database and found a match for the suspect's print. They could confidently point a finger at the hunter, who pleaded guilty and went to jail.



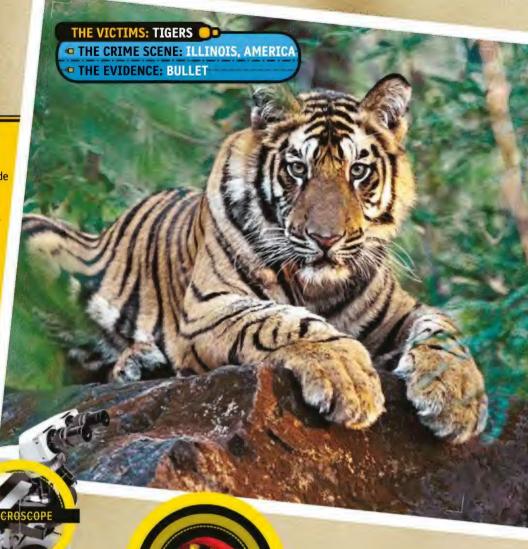


SMOKING GUN

The truck rolled past the razor-wire fence and into an abandoned warehouse. It was pulling a horse trailer, but the animals inside were tigers bought from roadside zoos.

Two men pointed guns and shot the endangered tigers, hoping to sell the hides, skulls and meat. But the suspects did a sloppy cleanup job. When an undercover FWS agent bought a full-body tiger skin rug from the ringleader, she found a bullet in the tiger's skull.

A gun leaves a telltale pattern of nicks and scratches on the bullet it fires. Those marks enable scientists to match a bullet to a particular weapon. At the lab, scientists fired a test round of bullets from the ringleader's gun. Using a microscope, investigators compared the marks from the test round to the bullet they found. They matched. "The scientific evidence really sealed the case," says FWS agent Tim Santel. Now the ringleader is locked up and other tigers have nothing to fear from him.



THE VICTIMS: RHINOS

THE CRIME SCENE: LIMPOPO, SOUTH AFRICA-

THE EVIDENCE: DNA



SMART SCIENCE

A hunter aimed his rifle loaded with darts containing a deadly dose of veterinary tranquilizers. His target: rhinoceros grazing peacefully in a reserve. Shots rang out and two rhinos fell. Days later he checks in to O. R. Tambo International Airport. He tries to skip the sniffer dogs by booking his luggage directly to Vietnam. But the police are using X-ray scanners on the luggage. In his bag they see the shape of six rhino horns, weighing more than 15 kilograms and worth up to R4 million on the black market. The police still didn't have enough evidence to link these horns to the poaching incident – first they had to fit the horn to the skull it came from.

Cindy Harper, head of the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory in Pretoria, believes DNA profiling can solve this case. In her lab they drill into each horn to obtain tissue samples of DNA. This determines the traits of all living things, is unique and chances of another rhino having the same DNA sequence are one in a million. Two of the horns turned out to match the poached rhinos! That was foolproof evidence and a judge sentenced the man to ten years in prison — the first criminal conviction using DNA fingerprinting of rhino horn.



Check out these outrageous facts.

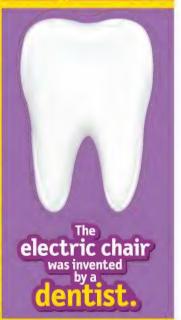




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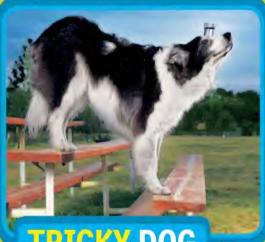
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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Guinness World Recor

SUPERLONG MAIL

This is one woman who never bites her nails. Chris "The Duchess" Walton of Las Vegas in America holds the record for the longest fingernails on a woman. If all ten nails were laid end to end, they'd measure over six metres long – about the height of five cows stacked on top of one another. Chris coats her nails with an acrylic gloss to keep them from breaking, then decorates them with cool colours and designs. The whole process takes nearly five hours. She can do everything from driving a car to washing dishes, but avoids sports to protect her nails. Why risk 18 years of hard work?



RICKY DOG

Talk about taking it one step at a time. Sweet Pea the border collie mix can walk down ten steps while balancing a glass of water on her head. That's the most steps ever for a dog! In fact, Sweet Pea can balance books, owner practise about two on your head sounds tough? Sweet Pea holds another record for walking up 17 steps



GIGANTIC ICE CREAM CONE

Hope you saved room for dessert. The biggest ice cream cone is more than two metres tall. It took seven dessert chefs about 30 hours to create this frozen treat for an event in Italy. Placed inside a custom-made glass case, the cone was covered with 2 000 vanilla cookies. Then five monster scoops of Italian ice cream, called gelato, were heaped inside the cone and topped with black cherries and chocolate. Just beware of extreme brain freeze.





BY SUSAN GRAY GOSE

boxer crab dashes out from under a rock. It's on a mission and has to be quick. Its claws are too small to fight predators. Ahead, sea anemones grow. These animals sting, yet the crab doesn't go around them. It plucks two anemones and holds them in its front claws.

Suddenly a sunset wrasse swims toward the crab. This colourful fish preys on crabs and even wriggles under rocks to find them.

The threatened crab jumps up and down and waves the anemones. It looks like it's trying to box with the wrasse. The wrasse swims away as it doesn't want to tangle with the crab's stinging boxing gloves.

The danger is past but the crab doesn't let go of the anemones. It rubs them across the seafloor so their tentacles mop up bits of food. The crab uses its claws to pick food from the tentacles and the anemones get the leftovers.

The crab only puts the anemones down when it moults and then it keeps them in a safe place.

The crab sheds its shell and grows a new one. As the new shell hardens, the crab picks up the anemones again. On their own, life might be tough but working together, they find food and fight off predators.

GETTING ALONG

In some cases it's clear that both species benefit. Take a moray eel and a cleaner shrimp. The shrimp crawls to an open space and sways its body. It waves its antennae. Moves like that could attract a predator. In fact, a moray eel soon swims up. It opens its mouth wide and flashes its teeth.

The shrimp disappears into the eel's mouth. It's not the eel's dinner, though. The shrimp uses its claws to pick up and eat dead skin and parasites. Then it crawls back out of the moray's mouth. The shrimp gets a meal and the eel gets a cleaning – both benefit.

THIS BOXER CRAB WAVES TWO TINY ANEMONES TO SCARE OFF PREDATORS.





LINKED LIVES

All over the planet other odd couples like the crab and anemones pair up for survival. We call this a symbiotic relationship.

Not all of these relationships are the same. If both species benefit, like the moray eel and the cleaner shrimp, it is called mutualism. Another deep sea cleaner is a little fish, the cleaner wrasse. When a big fish swims by, it darts into its mouth and nibbles away until the fish is clean. Other relationships are one-sided – two species work together but only one of them benefits. Then there's parasitism. A parasite often harms or even kills its partner to survive.

These relationships can be complicated. The crab and anemones are a good example. The anemones help protect the crab and catch food. That's good for the crab. The anemones get the crab's leftovers, so neither goes hungry. Yet the crab also keeps the anemones captive. They might not get enough food to thrive. Over time, they might turn pale and shrink.

ANT PLANT

Sometimes animals pair up with plants. A kind of ant and an acacia tree are a good example. Their symbiotic relationship is so close that the ants are called acacia ants.

These ants crawl all over an acacia tree and slurp its nectar. They lay eggs inside its hollow thorns and feed the tips of the tree's leaves to their larvae. The ants don't need to go anywhere else for food or shelter.

None of this hurts the tree. It has enough nectar, seeds and space for the ants. Yet the tree faces danger from other animals that want to eat its leaves. It even faces danger from other plants.

The ants defend the acacia tree like warriors. If a vine wraps itself around a branch, the ants bite through it. If a grasshopper lands on a branch

looking for leaves to eat, the ants sting it until it hops away.

If an elephant tries to pluck the tree's leaves, the ants swarm up the elephant's trunk. They crawl inside it and sting the tender skin. Some animals might get a nibble, but it's not enough to hurt the tree.



SEA FARM

A blue dragon sea slug doesn't look for a plant or animal partner. It pairs up with algae to survive. First the sea slug eats the algae. It doesn't digest the algae, but stores them inside its body. Now the algae have a new home.

During the day the sea slug crawls into shallow water. The sun beats down on it and through its skin. Inside its body the algae turn sunlight into food. That's how the algae get the energy to

L'HERDOLOWS HOTTESTOK MORAT ELL'I FRINMARO DISCHERLY INTROGES, IBACKGROUNDI, © IDEA FOR LIFE'SHUTTESTOK IBOKEN BIS, © DAVID FLETHAMMALAMY (CLEANER WRASSE), MICHAEL PATRICK ELL'OCEANMOBINAGES, COM BUETALOL, © JOHAN SYMATPOEL, THESTOK (ALGAE), © DOUG PERRINE 'S EAPICS, COM I GACALO ANTI, EN MOPETTIMINED HI PULICE SILD TITLE SOLIZ ESTERIBAS MINIDEN HI RIFE IBARBAKI, ESI, © DAMNY FRANKAGE FOTIGATICK WAND IS.



survive and grow.

The algae make enough food to give the blue dragon energy, too. It needs this help. A sea slug is slow and when it's hungry, it can't always quickly find sponges or sea anemones to eat. Its algae farm keeps the blue dragon alive between meals.

SLOTHS AND MOTHS

Deep in a rain forest another kind of animal pairs up with algae. There a sloth hangs upside down from a thin branch high in the trees. It barely budges even when it rains.

The sloth's damp, shaggy fur makes a great home for algae. They grow in grooves in the sloth's hairs and turn it green. The colour camouflages the sloth so it can hide from predators in the leafy trees.

Moths live in the sloth's fur too. These sloth moths hide from predators and eat the algae. They also lay their eggs in

the sloth's dung. At every stage of their lives, these moths depend on the sloths.

The moths don't help the sloth. They also don't hurt it. This kind of relationship is called commensalism.

STUCK TOGETHE

Deep in the sea is another example of commensalism. Hundreds of bumpy barnacles cling to the skin of a humpback whale, who doesn't even notice them. The barnacles don't hurt the whale or slow it down. But sticking to the whale helps them survive.

Like shrimps, barnacles are crustaceans. They're so small that it's hard for them to find enough food. Bigger animals gobble the food up first. That's where the whale comes in.

Once a year, whales swim to shallow waters to give birth. The waters are full of barnacle larvae. These barnacle babies swim up to a whale and tap their antennae on its skin. When they find a free spot on the whale, they glue themselves there headfirst and grow a hard shell to live in. They can live on the whale for more than five years.

Why does a barnacle pick a whale as its host? They eat the same food. They eat plankton, or tiny plants and animals. When a whale swims through plankton, the barnacles stick feathery feet out of openings in their shells. Their feet wave in the water and catch plankton. By riding on a whale, barnacles can find plenty of food.

PECKING ORDER

Like the shrimps and wrasses, oxpeckers make a good cleaning crew. These birds sit on the back of a Cape buffalo. With bright red beaks they peck at its skin. A pair even hops down the buffalo's head. They stick their heads



inside its gooey nostrils and go to work.

The birds aren't hurting the buffalo. They're helping it. With each peck they gobble up bugs and dead skin. They clean the buffalo and help it to stay healthy. In return the oxpeckers get all the food they need.

The oxpeckers are good watchdogs, too. From the back of the buffalo they can see all around. When they spot a predator, they caw loudly. That startles the buffalo and also warns it. It has time to run to a safe place.

For the Cape buffalo an oxpecker is a perfect partner. It helps the animal survive. That's what many of these symbiotic relationships are all about. On its own, a plant or animal or bit of algae may have trouble staying alive. By working together they can help each other find food, shelter and safety. That's why these odd couples make perfect pairs.



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*SEE PAGE 49 FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS.
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ファントンソファファファフィン

The Truth Behind the New Movie

BY DELENÉ VAN DER LUGT

Would you like to spend your day exploring the Scottish Highlands, riding your horse and practising archery? Sounds like fun — and it's just what teen princess Merida wants. Queen Elinor has other plans for her daughter, though. Determined to change her fate, Merida accepts help from a witch and accidentally unleashes a beastly curse on the kingdom. It will take all her courage to clean up her own mess! NG KIDS went behind the scenes of the movie Brave to find out how Merida's magical home measures up to the real Scotland.

HIGHLAND FLING

In the movie all the clans of the kingdom gather at the castle to compete in the Highland Games. This time each clan presents the first-born son of a lord to compete for Merida's hand in marriage. These games date back to ancient times and just like in the movie only men could compete. Events like the caber toss (throwing a large wooden pole) and the stone put (similar to shot put) were designed to impress rivals. Chieftains had their followers race to find the fastest man, who would then carry urgent messages during battles. It is said that Baron De Coubertin decided to revive the Olympics after seeing a display of Highland games at the Paris Exhibition of 1889.

CREATING A CASTLE

No Pixar film has had a castle in it, so King Fergus and Queen Elinor's home had to be designed from scratch. At first the team wanted to set DunBroch castle on a loch (lake) in the Highlands. Then they visited Dunnottar Castle, a ruined medieval fortress on a cliff, and were so inspired that they changed the location. Dunnottar Castle was built in the 15th century. Legend has it that William Wallace (Braveheart) set fire to the castle chapel while English soldiers were hiding inside.

DON'T MESS WITH THIS PRINCESS.

ABOVE: THE REAL DUNNOTTAR CASTLE (LEFT); EARLY CONCEPT ART FOR CASTLE DUNBROCH (MIDDLE); THE FINAL ARTWORK FOR MERIDA'S HOME (RIGHT).

In marshy places found in parts of Scotland a natural phenomenon occurs when swamp and bog gasses seep from the ground.
When they come into contact with air
they sometimes catch fire. Legend says travellers at night would follow these lights, called will o' the wisps, believing they were fairies. Merida first sees them in the circle of stones. They're blue like a gas flame and lead her into the forest to a witch's cottage.



FACT Merida has more than 1 500 individually sculpted, curly red strands that make

HAIR-RAISING

up about 111 700 hairs. If they were straightened, her hair would be over a metre long and reach the middle of her calf!

Merida refuses to get married and her mum is furious. They argue and the princess rides off on her horse, Angus. After racing through the woods they end up at a ring of giant stones in a perfect circle. This scene was inspired by Standing Stones of Callanish on a Scottish island. "It felt like the perfect setting for something important to happen," says producer
Katherine Sarafian. "The stone circle is
on an exposed cliff with the sky behind
it. Very striking. On both trips
there I struggled to get the
artists back on the bus.



Did you think a kilt, the traditional outfit worn by Scottish men since the 16th century, is just a woolly dress you slip into? Wrong. Even making one with computer graphics, as the team did for *Brave*, is hard. 'The kilt is one long piece of fabric,' explains simulation supervisor Claudia Chung. "It is folded, tied with a strap, draped and then pinned with a special brooch." Just so they could draw it properly, some of her team members studied videos of people putting on kilts, practised doing it themselves and even wore a few.



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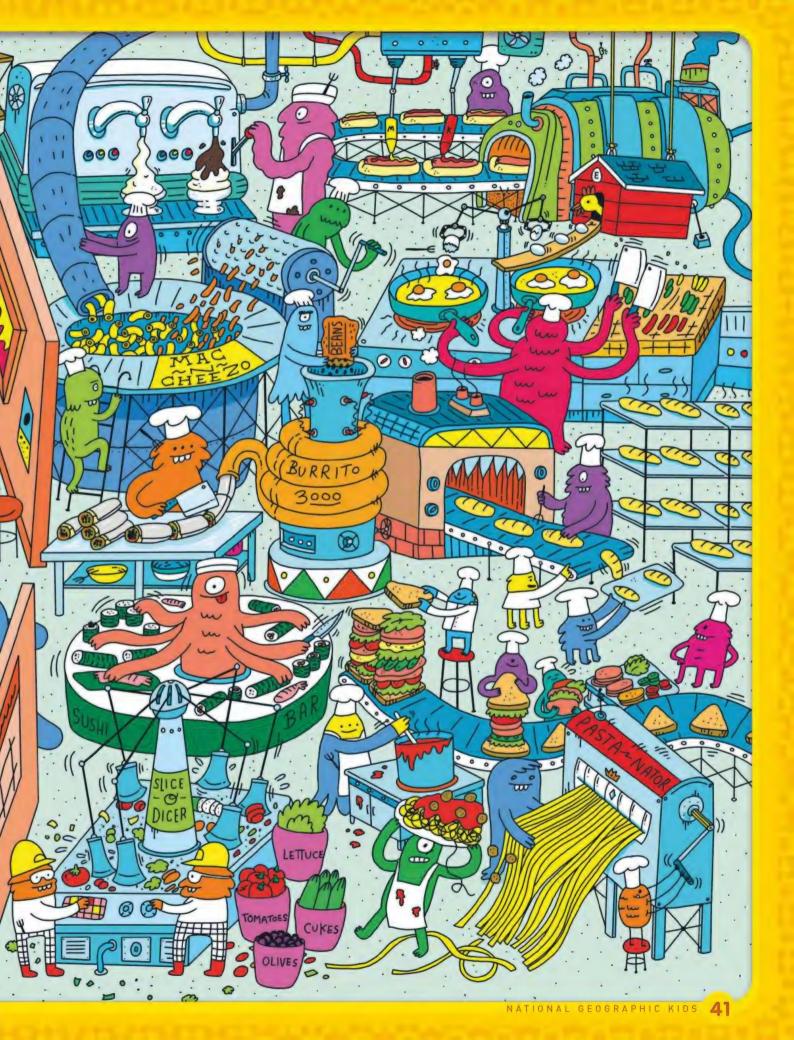
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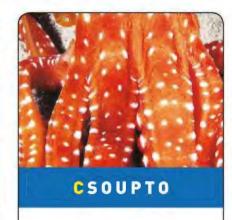
BELOW SEA LEVEL

These photographs show close-up views of underwater creatures. Unscramble the letters to identify each picture.

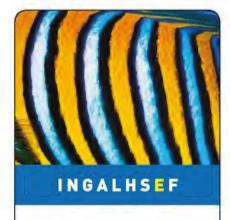
Bonus: Use the highlighted letters to solve the puzzle below. ANSWERS ON PAGE 50

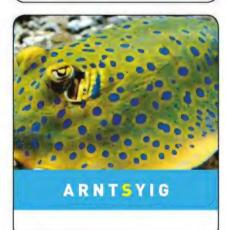


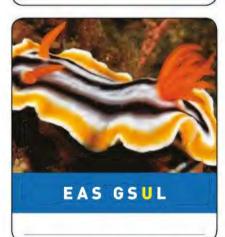
IFSHRSAT















HINT: It sounds like a vegetable, but it moves along the ocean floor.

ANSWER: ____

LBHWIOFS





"Ek as 'n Ingenieur"

NG KIDS drew pictures of what they want to be when they grow up.

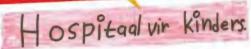
> "Dokter Dokter" Marié van Zyl, 10, Malmesbury

Jan-Jan Meyer, 9, Humansdorp

Pet Shop Ané Leonard, 10, Hartenbos

"Dierebeskermer" Dorette Bester, 12, **Groot Jongensfontein**

Kyk na ons Mooi land ensy diere. My naam is Dorette!





"Vet van Afrika" Christél Theron, 11, Merweville

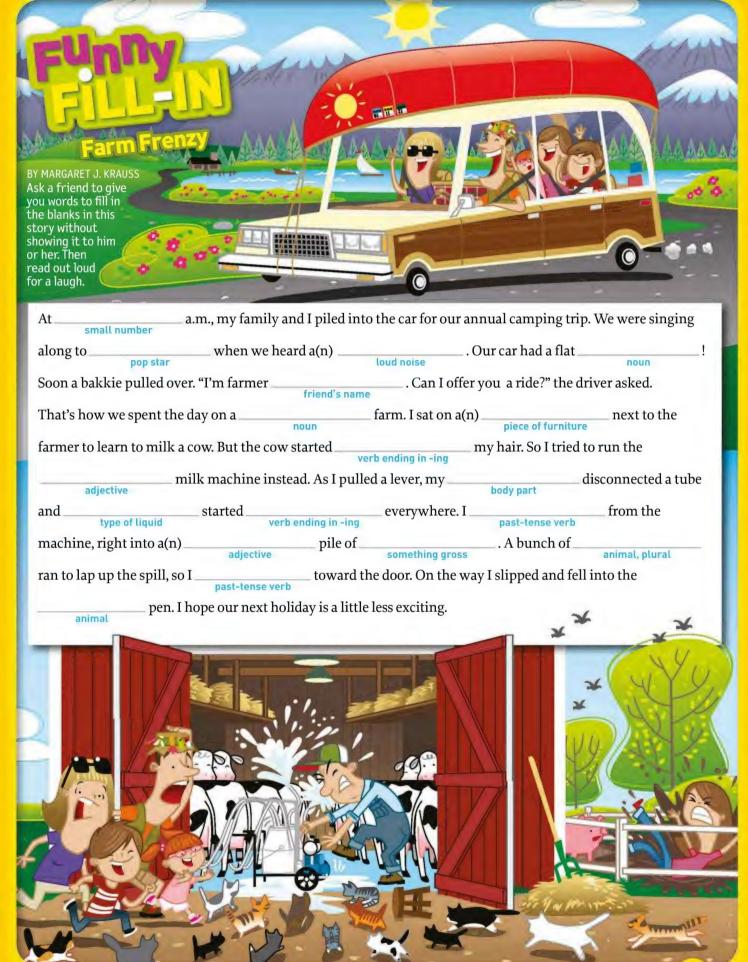




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STUMP YOUR PARENTS

If your parents can't answer these questions, maybe they should go to school instead of you!

ANSWERS ON PAGE 50



Which statement is false? Two-toed sloths

A. sleep up to 18 hours a night

C. shiver

B. climb upside down

D. eat leaves



A person who studies trees is a(n)

A. dendrologist

B. etymologist

C. treeologist

D. geologist

- The world's largest rodent is the
 - A. chipmunk

C. capybara

B. Johannesburg rat

D. marmot

- The first compasses were made in
 - A. China

C. Peru

B. Portugal

D. Zimbabwe

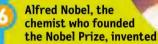
Arachibutyrophobia is the fear of

A. getting peanut butter stuck to the roof of your mouth.

B. getting stuck in rapids.

C. bridges.

D. spiders.



A. light bulbs

B. sleeping bags

C. the space shuttle

D. dynamite

Match each country to the currency it uses.

A. Canada

1. metical

B. United Kingdom

2. euro

C. Poland D. Spain dollar
 pound

E. Mozambique

5. zloty

Which of these wacky festivals are real?

- A. The Lumberjack Festival in Stellenbosch, Western Cape
- B. The Tomato Festival (La Tomatina) in Buñol, Spain
- C. The Rainbow Gathering in Santa Fe, America
- D. All of the above

The planet furthest from the sun

is

A. Earth

C. Mercury

B. Neptune

D. Saturn

A group of grasshoppers is called a

A. cloud

B. pod

C. bloat

D. scrum







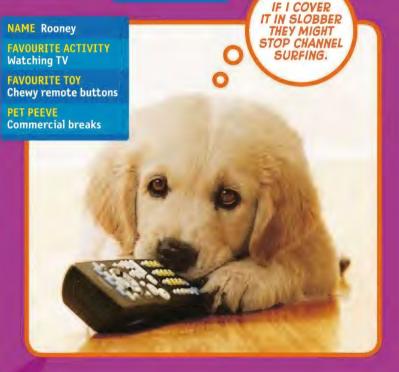


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NAME Mr. Fudge
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY
Dreaming about his next meal
FAVOURITE TOY
Hamburger-shaped pillow
PET PEEVE
The dishwasher

NAME Rosie
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY
Pretending she's a flower
FAVOURITE TOY
Potting soil to dig in
PET PEEVE Being



watered





TERMS AND CONDITIONS

*GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR ALL COMPETITIONS AND GIVEAWAYS IN NG KIDS

All entries must include your name, age, postal address, home telephone number, cell number, e-mail and any mandatory information specific to a competition, including answers to qualifying questions unless otherwise specified. • Prizes and giveaways cannot be transferred or exchanged for cash. • If you cannot meet any one of the entry requirements, the judges reserve the right to award the prize to a runner-up. NG KIDS has the right to substitute the gift or prize with something of the same value. The copyright to all entries, letters, photographs, artwork, SMSs and questions belongs exclusively to NG KIDS and NG KIDS reserves the right to edit and republish them in any media. Winners may decline to have their name used in advertising or listed publicly. • Competitions and giveaways are open to anyone 14 years or younger, except employees of Mediaz4, sponsors and their agents or any company associated with the competition and their immediate families. Where the competition prize is a holiday stipulating that it is for a certain number of adults and children, "children" will be taken to be under the age of 12, unless otherwise stipulated. • Unless specified only submissions or entries from South Africa are allowed. If winners reside outside of South Africa they may be liable for transport, courier or postage costs. The winners will be notified telephonically and their names will appear in NG KIDS magazine. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. • Allow two months for delivery of prizes from winners' announcement in NG KIDS. The prizes will be awarded to correct entries drawn randomly by computer after the closing date, except when there is judging involved or it is stated otherwise. If the winner cannot be contacted within two weeks after the closing date, an alternative winner will be drawn. • All competition entry SMSs are charged at R1,50 each. Free minutes and SMS bundles do not apply. You can enter as many times as you like, unless stated otherwise. • E-mail addresses of readers cannot be sent to any third party without the reader's consent. • By entering the competition you agree to receive further communication and direct marketing material from Media24 (Ltd.) • The entrant accepts that entry to the competition does not constitute a contract or any form of legal commitment between the entrant and NG KIDS, Media24 or the National Geographic Society. • NG KIDS shall not assume liability for any ambiguity, error, oversight or omission whether negligent or otherwise which may be committed by any employee of the participating magazine, their agents or associates in respect of competitions or giveaways published in the magazine or online. Entry signifies acceptance of the rules. Competitions in the NG KIDS August 2012 issue close on 28 August 2012 unless otherwise specified.

*GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS

Children must ask an adult's permission. SMSs charged at R1. Free minutes and SMS bundles do not apply.

• Offer valid until 28 August 2012. • The Amazing Animals Families book is open to the first 200 subscribers which take up this offer; thereafter only the discount of 20 per cent to new subscribers and 25 percent to existing subscribers applies. • We reserve the right to replace the featured gift with one of equal value.
• Offer is not valid in conjunction with Vitality offer. • Discovery Vitality offer valid only for active Vitality members. • All subscribers agree to receive promotional material from NG KIDS. • Offer is open to SA addresses only—call 021-405-1905 for international rates. • NG KIDS CLUB benefits apply strictly to South African residents. • Staff of Media24 (Ltd) and their immediate family, sponsors and their advertising agencies are not entered into monthly subscriber competitions.

*GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR MOVIE SCREENING

The competition opens on 20 July 2012 and closes at 10 a.m. on 26 July 2012. • Tickets will be awarded on a first-come-first-served basis. • Winners will be notified immediately. • The prize cannot be redeemed for cash or exchanged for another movie. • SMSs cost R1,50 each and free SMSs do not apply. • Please note: only four tickets per family. There are 260 tickets available in Johannesburg, 200 in Cape Town and 200 in Richards Bay. Staff of Media24 (Ltd) and their immediate family, sponsors and their advertising agencies may not enter. • The entrant accepts that entry to the competition does not constitute a contract of any form of legal commitment between the entrant and NG KIDS. • NG KIDS shall not assume liability for any ambiguity, error, oversight or omission whether negligent or otherwise which may be committed by an employee of NG KIDS, their agents or associates in respect of this competition. · Participants and winners of this competition indemnify and hold National Geographic KIDS, Media24 (Ltd) and the sponsor harmless against any liability, claim, damage or loss that may result from participating or winning these prizes.

WINNERS FROM NG KIDS MAY ISSUE

Teen Guard Brain Fuel Hampers

Addur Rahman, Cwangco Mngomezulu Tshandu, Inga Smit, Estie Kruger, Kathlen Dames, Reihaan Ahmed, Maryka van Bekkun, Mark Chirah, Monique Swarts, Mushfitu Lotters

Mother's Day Competition Winners Alpine Heath Resort, KZN - Adriaan van Heerden

The Square Boutique Hotel & Spa, KZN – Cayla Paulse Greenway Woods Resort, Mpumalanga – Lara Schultz Le Franschhoek Hotel & Spa, Western Cape – Emma Smith



Chocolate chimp cookies.



The arrr-cade.





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